The activities of all organisations having a bearing on maintenance of communal harmony in the country are under constant watch of law enforcement agencies and requisite legal action is taken, wherever necessary.

Government has taken various steps to combat the sinister designs of Pak ISI by sensitising and gearing up the intelligence machinery, sharing of intelligence and coordinated action by Central and State agencies.

Progress of Talks on J&K

352. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made in the talks between the Central Government, Government of Jammu and Kashmir and leaders of the militant groups invited for talks; and

(b) the details of the militant outfits invited for talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) No such talks have been held.

Negative Impact of Attack on Christians

353. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that attacks on Christians in the country are increasing;

(b) whether Government have identified any organisation which is behind such attacks; and

(c) whether such attacks on Christians are not sending a negative message to the international community which has an image of India as a secular country where all religions have co-existed for hundreds of years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Although there is no overall increase in the incidents of violence involving the minorities, however some isolated incidents involving the Christians and their institutions have recently taken place. Most of them relate to law and order/crime.

(b) With regard to the recent series of bomb blast in Church premises in States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Goa, the involvement of an

organisation called the 'Deendar Anjuman' has been established; and in respect of others; no organised group has so far been found to be involved.

(c) Some vested interests may be engaged in adverse publicity with the aim of tarnishing the country's secular image but the Govt. is committed to safeguarding the interests of the minorities and to deal firmly with the perpetrators of violence against them.

Bajrang Dal Way of Protecting Hinduism

354. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'The Times of India'. New Delhi edition dated the 26th June, 2000 under the caption "Protecting Hinduism, the Bajrang Dal way";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Bajrang Dal activists are being imparted firearms training in Karsevakpuram in Ayodhya; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) A camp was organised from 21st June to 27th June at Karsevakpuram (Ayodhya) where training was given to some youth with 6 AIR GUNS.

The State Government has given suitable instructions to the concerned police authorities in this regard.

Discussion on International Terrorism

355. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had discussed the issue of threat of international terrorism during his recent visit to Israel, France and the United Kingdom; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof?